

REMEMBERING KEVIN NISHITA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kevin Fumito Nishita, a retired San Francisco Bay Area police officer who was murdered in a senseless act of gun violence while working as a security guard for a television crew in Oakland, CA.

Kevin's death has devastated not only his family and friends, but also the Bay Area's law enforcement and journalism communities, which had come to know him as an energetic, professional protector and a supportive friend. He died protecting practitioners of one of our nation's most sacred rights: the freedom of the press.

Kevin served as an officer with the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department and the Hayward Police Department before joining the San Jose Police Department in 2001. There, he worked as a Gang Investigations detective as well as working the Gaming/Vice Unit. In addition to his police assignments, Kevin also spent some time representing his peers as a director with the San José Police Officers Association.

He then joined the Colma Police Department in 2012, serving as a Detective, Field Training Officer, and Officer in Charge before being promoted to Sergeant in 2015 and retiring in 2018. Since early 2020, Kevin worked with the Star Protection Agency, often accompanying personnel from various Bay Area television stations into unsafe areas.

He was protecting a KRON4 news crew in downtown Oakland at midday on Nov. 24 when a group of men attempted to rob the crew of its camera. Kevin intervened and was shot; he succumbed to his injuries three days later.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Nishita; his mother, Mary Yukiko Nishita; his father, Dan Fumito Nishita; his stepson, Enrique Ramiro Serrano; his daughter-in-law, Elaine Hebron Edjan; his daughter, Maureen Campos; his son-in-law, Marlowe Campos; and his grandsons, Titus Mackoa Campos, Kahuna Cudi Campos, and Dash Wilfred Campos.

Colleagues remember Kevin by nicknames including "Turbo" and "Stitch," after the animated character, for his high-energy, always-moving persona. His family says he was an extremely hard worker who never asked for anything in return, who opened his home to so many people who needed help, a man of deep compassion.

Kevin Nishita's death should be a wake-up call that gun violence is a scourge upon our communities that must be addressed and stopped. His life should be remembered as a celebration of public service and fellowship, a model for all who knew and loved him. I offer his family, friends, and colleagues my deepest condolences on this terrible loss.

COMMEMORATING THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN'S 50TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on December 16, the Kingdom of Bahrain will mark its 50th National Day. I'm joined by many of my colleagues in congratulating the Bahraini people on this impressive milestone.

The contributions of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the peace and security of the wider Middle East region cannot be understated; look no further than the support of Bahrain in assisting U.S. evacuation efforts in Afghanistan, or to the Kingdom's hosting of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Bahrain also assists U.S. counterterrorism efforts in marginalizing the use of drones by Iranian proxy groups.

Bahrain remains an instrumental security partner and ally of the United States. In 2002, Bahrain became a Major Non-NATO Ally, a designation given only to close partner states. Through our enhanced defense cooperation, we have been able to curtail the malign and toxic influence of the Iranian regime.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has so clearly augmented the prospect for regional peace through its participation in the Abraham Accords, and now maintains an embassy in Israel. Bahrain's Constitution continues to enshrine freedom of religion guarantees for all Bahraini citizens—to include women's right to vote and run for office.

In recognition of its 50th National Day, I warmly congratulate the people of Bahrain on the founding of their young nation, and wish them good health, prosperity, and security for many more years.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY BETH WALKER AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise—along with HANK JOHNSON, Chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet—to thank Mary Beth Walker for her service to the Committee as a counsel detailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, Mary Beth has helped the Committee achieve a great deal. This includes the passage last Congress of the Trademark Modernization Act, which, among other things, responded to the growing number of fraudulent trademark applications as well as the documented large number of unused marks on the register by creating two new ex parte proceedings to remove registered trademarks that were not in use when the application was made, or had never been used. This will help those seeking new registrations, like small businesses, have a better chance at obtaining a strong trademark of their initial preference.

Mary Beth was also instrumental in advancing the SHOP SAFE Act in this Congress. This bill seeks to address the scourge of counterfeits being sold by third parties on online e-commerce platforms by reforming a decade-old liability structure established by case law rather than Congress. Mary Beth worked tirelessly with stakeholders and other Congressional staff to try to ensure that the bill strikes the right balance to make a meaningful difference in reducing the number of counterfeits being sold to unsuspecting consumers.

Mary Beth has shown herself to be a dedicated public servant and a true team player, willing to help out on other hearings and intellectual property issues that came before the Committee. We will miss her greatly, but we are glad that her expertise will remain in service to the public with her return to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as an Associate Solicitor.

We thank Mary Beth for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with the next chapter in her career.

HONORING DR. DAVID VIERRA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE ANTELOPE VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. David Vierra for 40 years of service in public education and the lasting contributions he has made to the Antelope Valley, his lifelong home. In August of this year, David retired from his position as Antelope Valley Union High School District Superintendent after serving for nearly two decades in that role.

Upon graduating from Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, California, one of the very schools that he would later serve as District Superintendent, David earned his bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, and subsequently began his career in education in 1981 as a teacher in the Lancaster Elementary School District. Soon after, he took his talents abroad, serving in the U.S. Department of Defense as an instructor at Kaiserslautern American High School in Germany, where he also coached football and basketball.

In 1998, David became the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services at the Antelope Valley Union High School District and just four years later—a true testament to his inherent leadership skills—David was tapped to lead the school district as Superintendent. Under David's direction, the Antelope Valley Union High School District has transformed into a vastly successful school system that prepares students for the 21st century and has even been internationally recognized. In 2018, Antelope Valley Union High School District received a special, six-year districtwide accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a world-renowned accrediting association in the United States that works closely with the Office of Overseas Schools under the Department of State. The Antelope Valley Union High School